DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
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Environmental Resources Branch

JUL 13 2016

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/EIR) for the Folsom Dam Raise Project, located in the vicinity of the Folsom facility and appurtenant structures in the city of Folsom, Sacramento County, California, is now available for review. The Dam Raise Project is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. The Dam Raise Project includes modifying the Tainter gates and raising the dikes and wing dams by 3.5 feet. Construction was authorized by Section 101(a)(6) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1999 (1111 Stat. 274) and formal authorization for the project was included in Section 3029(b) of WRDA 2007.

As part of the Folsom Dam Raise Project, the Corps and its partners propose to modify the Tainter gates by increasing the flood storage capacity and/or pool release mechanisms, thereby adding flood damage reduction benefits while still safely passing the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). Raising the dam by 3.5 feet would allow for holding discharges longer by creating additional surcharge space (temporary water storage space utilized during rare flooding events) within the reservoir.

a. Spillway Tainter Gate Modification:

- **Top Seal Bulkhead:** The top seal bulkhead is a hydraulic structure that would be mounted above the spillway Tainter gates in order to prevent overtopping during a major flood event.

- **Tainter Gate Retrofit:** Additional retrofit elements are necessary to address some of the loading conditions imposed by PMF design. These include skin plate ribs, lower girder, and trunnion anchorage.

- **Pier Height Extension:** A vertical concrete extension to the top of the pier would provide the necessary elevated platform for the new hoist system. The top seal bulkheads would mount to and seal against the pier extension.

- **New Hoist System:** A new hoist system would be installed to handle increased hydrostatic PMF loads, as well as slightly heavier gates from additional retrofit requirements.

b. 3.5-foot Dam Raise:

- The 3.5-foot dam raise alternative would raise the height of Dikes 1 through 8, and Morman Island Auxiliary Dam (MIAD), with an earthen embankment raise using engineered fill material similar to the existing composition of the earthen dikes.

- In combination with the earthen dam raises on the dikes and MIAD, the Corps would also construct a reinforced 3.5-foot concrete flood wall on the Left Wing Dam and Right Wing Dam that would tie into the main dam, the Folsom Joint Federal Project, and the existing terrain. A reinforced concrete retaining wall (also termed a parapet wall) with footing embedded in the earthfill of the embankment would be constructed along the embankment crest.

The Draft SEIS/EIR describes: 1) all the environmental resources in the project area; 2) evaluates the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the No Action Plan and the Alternative Plan, and 3) recommends avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce potential effects to environmental resources. Analysis indicates that most of the potential adverse effects that could result from implementation of the proposed alternative would either be short term, or would be avoided or reduced to less than significant by using best management practices. However, analysis indicates significant localized short-term effects on traffic, recreation, noise, vegetation and wildlife, and special status species, due to construction.

The Draft SEIS/EIR also provides the opportunity for public and agency involvement and comment. During the 45-day public review period, the Corps will host public workshops to discuss the proposed project and encourage public questions and comments on the project.

The public workshop dates, times, and locations are as follows:

a. Date: July 25, 2016 and July 27, 2016

b. Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

c. Location: July 25, 2016 Sacramento City Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA. The July 27, 2016 meeting will be held at Folsom Community Center, Activities Room, 52 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA.

The Draft SEIS/EIR is available to review at the following locations:

a. Folsom Public Library, 411 Stafford Street, Folsom, CA 95630

b. Orangevale Branch Library, 8820 Greenback Lane, Orangevale, CA 95662

The Draft SEIS/EIR may also be viewed at the Corps website:

http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Media/USACEProjectPublicNotices.aspx. Copies of the Draft SEIS/EIR are also available upon request.

The public review period for the Draft SEIS/EIR will be from July 19, 2016 to September 20, 2016. All comments received concerning the Draft SEIS/EIR will be considered and incorporated into the Final SEIS/EIR, as appropriate.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for copies to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attn: Ms. Mariah Brumbaugh, Environmental Manager, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814. Ms. Brumbaugh may also be reached by phone at (916) 557-6774 or by e-mail to Mariah.M.Brumbaugh@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

for Alicia E. Kirchner
Chief, Planning Division